

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [1001] with the following amended paragraph:

[1001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/551,113, filed April 18, 2000, now abandoned.

Please replace paragraph [1002] with the following amended paragraph:

[1002] In addition, this application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/837,671 ~~not yet assigned~~ (docket ~~004-5723~~), entitled "LOCK FREE REFERENCE COUNTING," naming David L. Detlefs, Paul A. Martin, Mark S. Moir, and Guy L. Steele Jr. as inventors, and filed on even date herewith.